

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6604

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

COTONOU 3579

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, TO, NI

SUBJ: EYADEME AND OBASANJO HOLD TALKS IN LAGOS

1. REPORTEDLY IN RESPONSE FMG INVITATION, TOGOLESE PRESIDENT SYADEMA VISITED LAGOS AUGUST 31 FOR TALKS WITH HEAD-OF-STATE OBASANJO. RESULTANT COMMUNIQUE AND EYADEMA'S DEPARTURE REMARKS INDICATE ECOWAS WAS MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION PROGRESS TO DATE TOWARD ADOPTION ECOWAS PROTOCOLS AND STATED DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED ON VENUE NEXT
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HEADS-OF-STATE SUMMIT. TOGOLESE PRESIDENT TOLD AIRPORT NEWS-

MEN THAT A MEETING OF ECOWAS MEMBER COUNTRIES' HEADS-OF-STATE WOULD BE HELD NEXT JANUARY TO "ENSURE THE FINAL TAKEOFF" OF THE REGIONAL BODY. JANUARY SUMMIT WOULD BE PRECEDED BY ANOTHER SPECIAL MEETING OF EXPERTS LATER THIS YEAR. EYADEMA WOULD NOT DISCLOSE VENUES THESE MEETINGS. TOGO'S LEADER REPORTED TO HAVE DISAGREED WITH SUGGESTION THAT EXISTENCE OF ECONOMIC UNION FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES (COAE) WOULD HINDER ECOWAS.

2. COMMUNIQUE ALSO ASSERTED THAT TOGO AND NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO ANTI-RACIST AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND, IN THIS CONTEXT, THAT THE TWO LEADERS HAD SHARED VIEWS ON STRATEGY FOR UPCOMING UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON NAMIBIA.

3. EYADEMA SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH BENIN NOW NORMAL FOLLOWING NIGERIAN AND GUINEAN-LEAD CONCILIATION EFFORTS.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH NOTHING SAID IN PUBLIC, WE WOULD THINK TWO LEADERS ALSO DISCUSSED CRITICAL QUESTION WHICH COUNTRY GETS ECOWAS SECRETARY GENERALSHIP AND WHICH SELECTED AS SECRETARIAL HEADQUARTERS SITE. PRESUMABLY THIS DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BEFORE "FINAL TAKE-OFF" SUMMIT SESSION IN JANUARY. PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF LIBERIA DUE IN LAGOS TODAY AND WE EXPECT ECOWAS WILL AGAIN BE AMONG MAJOR SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED.
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